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Bangalore Mirror ON SUNDAY

TEMP Max 34 | Min 22 | Humidity 52% Partly sunny Sensex 76,913 | Nifty 23,997 | Gold 1,51,568 | Silver 2,47,500 | Dollar 94.84 | Euro 111.34 | GBP 129.02

BLUEPRINT HIGHLIGHT

Proposed Revised Master Plan 2041 to bring Electronic City into unified urban planning ambit

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EXPLICIT STUFF

How porn addiction can ruin lives: Dependence on visual stimulation makes real intimacy difficult to attain

PAGE 5

At 8,891, Bengaluru has reported highest number of teen pregnancies in the state, revealing scale of not only medical but deeper structural and social challenges that we face; doctors stress on need to take non-judgemental approach

BARELY A WOMAN, ALREADY A MOTHER

Lack of education, poor access to contraception driving numbers up

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“Educating adolescents about reproductive health, contraception, and consent helps them make informed decisions and reduces unintended pregnancies. Open, age-appropriate conversations in schools and communities are essential to break myths and stigma

—Dr Jalajakshi B, obstetrician

Teenage pregnancies in Karnataka continue to reveal troubling blind spots in both social and institutional systems. The Karnataka government in April ordered a comprehensive, statewide audit of all adolescent pregnancy cases. The move is aimed at strengthening monitoring systems, identifying gaps in prevention, and ensuring better support for girls between the ages of 10 and 18.

Official figures from the Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Cell reveal that the state recorded 80,813 teenage pregnancies over the past three years. Among districts, Bengaluru Urban reported the highest number of cases at 8,891. This was followed by Belagavi with 8,169 cases and Vijayapura with 6,229.

A closer look at the age distribution shows that 276 pregnancies involved children aged 14–15, while 786 were in the 15–16 age group. The numbers rose sharply among older adolescents, with at least 2,397 cases recorded among those aged 16–17 and 11,136 among girls aged 17–18, highlighting a significant concentration in the upper end of the adolescent age bracket.

Health experts say the data underscores the scale of both medical and social challenges

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 >>

Something doesn’t add up

₹1,950-crore audit shock for erstwhile BBMP, massive irregularities exposed

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Serious financial irregularities to the tune of ₹1,950.82 crore have been flagged in the erstwhile BBMP’s functioning, according to the 2023-24 audit report. The detailed 376-page report, which examines the 2022-23 financial year, exposes widespread lapses across multiple departments including general administration, engineering works, revenue, town planning, horticulture, finance, forest, health and education. Of the total amount flagged, ₹1,704.69 crore has been formally objected to by auditors, while recovery of ₹246.12 crore has been recommended from erring officials and contractors.

The report highlights a pattern of illegal payments, negligence by officials and staff, and financial losses arising from violations of established procedures. It also points out that despite the absence of elected councillors since September 10, 2020, and governance being handled solely by officials, there has been no effective check on irregularities.

Rule violations

The audit has flagged multiple violations in execution of works and procurement of materials, including breaches of the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement (KTPP) Act. Instances of excess payments to contractors, under-collection of optical fibre cable (OFC) charges, and failure to forfeit deposits from contractors who did not complete projects have

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 >>

THINGS TO DO

01 Global party lands

Global music festival phenomenon Elrow makes its Bengaluru debut, bringing its iconic Neo Kaos Garden theme, an immersive mix of music, theatre and high-energy chaos. Featuring international DJs, Spanish performers and signature confetti-filled spectacles, the event promises a full-scale sensory experience. Tickets available on District by Zomato. **Where: To be announced. When: May 23, 3 pm onwards**

02 Ramen rave

CHA Hong Kong Eating House has launched Rollin' Ramen Rave (RRR), a limited-time sushi and ramen pop-up. The pop-up blends Hong Kong street-food energy with Japanese flavours, offering a menu featuring nigiri, signature sushi rolls, crispy nori pockets and slow-simmered ramen bowls. **Where: Phoenix Mall of Asia, Yelahanka; When: Running until May 15**

03 Sacred harmony

Natanam Institute will host the 6th Thyagaraja Aradhane, featuring classical dance and music performances led by Acharya Dr Raksha Karthik. **Where: Vyoma Studio, JP Nagar; When: May 3, 5.30 PM**

04 Open mic

"MOHTER", a curated open mic under Tuesdays with the Bard. Celebrating motherhood in all its complexity, the event features poetry, storytelling and performances exploring raw, honest narratives beyond traditional themes. **Where: Urban Solace, Ulsoor; When: May 5, 7.30 to 9 pm**

05 Visual legacy

What India Learned to See, From Battala to the Ravi Varma Press and Beyond', presented by the Raja Ravi Varma Heritage Foundation. The exhibition explores how printmaking, led by Raja Ravi Varma, shaped modern India's visual culture through oleographs, lithographs and rare printed works. **Where: Gallery G, Ashok Nagar; When: Running until May 31**

Results rigged, futures ripped

Govt high schools allegedly denying academically weak students who attend classes regularly official attendance to later be made to take final examinations under 'private candidate' category to boost pass percentage

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In a disturbing trend that exposes cracks in the state's school education system, several government high schools are allegedly resorting to unethical practices by forcing academically weak SSLC students to appear as private candidates, purely to boost institutional pass percentages. What appears unbelievable at first is now emerging as a harsh reality, where students who attend classes regularly throughout the academic year are denied official attendance and later made to sit final examinations under the "private candidate" category, severely impacting their chances of passing.

A school teacher said, "Traditionally, private candidates were those who had discontinued schooling midway due to reasons such as employment, personal constraints, or the need for certifications such as driving licences. However, the system is now being misused, with students who should ideally be appearing as regular candidates being deliberately reclassified. This practice, earlier seen in some private schools that issued transfer certificates to weak students in Class 9, has now crept into government high schools as well."

Sources indicate that the pressure to show high pass percentages and avoid scrutiny from higher authorities has driven some headmasters to adopt this questionable route. "To secure better results and avoid facing the wrath of senior officials, some schools are playing with the future of students," an insider revealed. The consequences for students are severe and often irreversible.

The issue came to light in places such as KPS School in Sringeri, where four students were made to sit the SSLC exam as private candidates. A similar case has been reported in a government high school in Shivamogga. Shockingly, all these students failed the examination. Parents, unaware of this manipulation, only discovered the truth after the results were announced and mark sheets were issued.

The difference between regular and private candidates is significant. Regular students are awarded

20 internal assessment marks, and they need to score only 13 marks in the written examination to pass. In contrast, private candidates must secure a full 33 marks in the written examination alone to be declared successful. Moreover, once classified as private candidates, these students cannot revert to the regular category and must continue attempting the examination as repeat private candidates until they pass. Parents have now lodged complaints with Block Education Officers and Deputy Directors, seeking action against the responsible headmasters. Officials have assured that strict measures will be taken. A senior education department source acknowledged the seriousness of the issue and said that inspections of private candidate examination centres would reveal the extent of this malpractice.

School Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa has taken a strong stance on the matter, stating, "Making students appear as private candidates to improve results is illegal. Strict action will be taken against headmasters involved in such practices."

Data highlights the scale of the issue. Across the state, 19,802 private candidates appeared for the SSLC examination this year. Officials admit that a large number of these candidates are actually regular students pushed into the private category.

Not fast? No 'superfast' charge

In a relief to lakhs of railway passengers, the South Western Railway (SWR) has withdrawn the additional 'superfast' charges levied on trains that do not meet the prescribed speed criteria, bringing down ticket prices by ₹10 to ₹50. The move comes after it was found that several trains were being classified as superfast despite operating below the mandated average speed of 55 km/h. As per rules laid down by the Railway Board, only mail and express trains running at an average speed above 55 km/h on broad gauge tracks can be categorised as superfast and attract an additional surcharge.

However, many trains falling short of this benchmark were still charging passengers extra. The issue came to light through a Right to Information (RTI) query filed by Mysuru-based activist B Rajesh, following which the railway zone acknowledged the discrepancy. Acting on the findings, South Western Railway has now removed the superfast surcharge on such trains within its jurisdiction. The revised fares have come into effect from April 21. As a result, passengers will see a reduction of ₹10 in second class, ₹20 in sleeper class, ₹30 in AC chair car and three-tier/two-tier AC coaches, and up to ₹50 in first-class AC tickets.

Officials said similar proposals have also been submitted to other railway zones, including Southern Railway and Konkan Railway, to implement fare corrections in their respective regions.

A senior railway official said the step is aimed at ensuring fairness and compliance with rules. **— BMB**

LPG price hike hits hoteliers, customers

Bengaluru's hotel industry and its customers are facing a fresh blow as a steep hike in commercial LPG cylinder prices threatens to make eating out significantly more expensive. From the perspective of hoteliers already struggling with supply disruptions and rising input costs, this latest increase has made price hikes almost unavoidable. For customers, it signals a second wave of burden after recent increases, creating a clear double blow on everyday expenses such as tea, coffee and meals. Industry representatives say the sharp jump in fuel costs will inevitably be passed on, leaving diners to feel the pinch once again.

The price of a 19 kg commercial gas cylinder has risen from ₹2,162 to ₹3,152, an unprecedented increase of ₹993 per cylinder, and a total rise of ₹1,308 over just two months. Hoteliers point out that they were already grappling with supply shortages triggered by geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, forcing many to procure cylinders at inflated rates on the black market or shift temporarily to alternatives such as firewood and induction cooking, which had already pushed menu prices up. "This kind of increase is unheard of. We expected a ₹100–200 hike, not ₹993. Small and mid-sized hotels will have no choice but to raise prices," said P. C. Rao, Honorary President of the Bengaluru Hotels Association. Industry sources indicate that tea and coffee prices could rise by ₹3 to ₹5, snacks by around ₹5, and full meals by up to ₹10, while smaller establishments face the risk of closure.

Customers are not the only ones affected, as PG accommodation may also become costlier, with operators likely to pass on the increased fuel expenses. The association has also raised concerns over the disparity in GST, noting that while domestic LPG attracts 5 per cent tax, commercial cylinders are taxed at 18 per cent, and has urged the government to reduce this burden, warning that the cascading impact will ultimately fall on the common man. **— BMB**

State set to monitor rain

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday warned of a possible 5 per cent drop in rainfall this year and directed officials to ensure that the drinking water supply remains unaffected. Chairing a meeting of Additional Chief Secretaries, Principal Secretaries and departmental Secretaries at Vidhana Soudha, he asked district in-charge secretaries to closely monitor the situation and coordinate with Deputy Commissioners and Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officers.

Stressing accountability, the Chief Minister said it is the responsibility of officials to resolve district-level issues and implement all budget announcements within the same year. He noted that 15 announcements from last year's budget are still pending and questioned the delay.

Out of 565 announcements in the 2026–27 budget, including 218 new ones, government orders have been issued for only five so far.

Siddaramaiah urged officials to work within the framework of the law, recalling BR Ambedkar's warning against appeasing politicians. He also cited Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's emphasis on honest and fearless advice to ministers. Highlighting administrative gaps, he pointed to delays in recruitment, with over 32,000 posts pending in Kalyana Karnataka. He warned that delays in grievance redressal could erode public trust and must be avoided. **— BMB**

Long-excluded Electronic City set for planning integration

City's outdated master plan replaced with fresh RMP 2041 process, targeting better infrastructure planning as Bengaluru rapidly expands into surrounding regions

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Over 110 villages face infrastructure gaps after BBMP expansion

Electronic City, one of the country's most prominent software and industrial hubs, remained outside the core planning framework when Bangalore City Corporation expanded into Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and later under Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA). This long-standing gap is now likely to be addressed, as the proposed Revised Master Plan (RMP) 2041 aims to bring Electronic City and other key growth centres into a unified urban planning structure, integrating them into the city's formal development roadmap.

Plan progress

A master plan serves as a guiding blueprint for a city's future growth, yet Bengaluru has struggled for over a decade to update it effectively. The city still depends on Revised Master Plan 2015, based on outdated projections, while RMP 2031 was withdrawn in 2022 due to technical flaws and public opposition. Now, RMP 2041 has begun as the city expands into surrounding regions. Areas added to BBMP limits in 2007, including over 110 villages, continue to face infrastructure gaps, reflecting unplanned growth.

Split planning

The state government has divided responsibility of preparing the new master plan between GBA and Bangalore Development Authority (BDA), raising concerns about fragmented planning. Adding to this, Bengaluru-Mysuru Infrastructure Corridor Area Planning Authority (BMICAPA) is preparing a separate plan for about 90 sq km. Experts warn that multiple agencies working independently could lead to inconsistencies in sectors like transport, housing and commercial zoning, complicating long-term development.

A consultant will be selected through a tender process and given one year to prepare the plan, defining zoning, land use, road expansion and allocation for residential, commercial and industrial growth, along with civic amenities

Expansion plan

A senior BDA official said, "The BDA has floated global tenders to prepare RMP 2041 for 545.34 sq km outside GBA limits and proposed areas such as Madanayakanahalli, Hebbagodi and Electronic City under its jurisdiction. While Electronic City's inclusion is essential for integrated infrastructure planning, the proposal awaits government approval. The plan aims to align fast-growing urban clusters with broader development vision, reducing gaps in planning and service delivery."

Tech mapping

To support the master plan, authorities have initiated a 3D drone survey to map the city comprehensively. With Bengaluru's population and vehicle count nearing 1.5 crore, planners stress the need for forward-looking infrastructure, including roads, flyovers, layouts and mobility networks. A consultant will be selected through a tender process and given one year to prepare the plan, defining zoning, land use, road expansion and allocation for residential, commercial and industrial growth, along with civic amenities.

Future focus

A BDA official added, "RMP 2041, a statutory planning document, will regulate urban development and guide Bengaluru's long-term growth. Using GIS-based surveys, authorities will assess land use across categories before consulting with experts and public stakeholders. The plan will prioritise solutions to traffic congestion, flooding, water scarcity and unregulated urbanisation while promoting sustainable development, including parks, open spaces, public buildings, building regulations and protection of heritage structures."

Woman dies, dowry harassment alleged

A 26-year-old woman allegedly died by suicide following prolonged dowry harassment under the jurisdiction of Hulimavu Police Station, leaving behind her four-month-old baby.

The deceased, identified as Vandana, was a resident of Bettadasanpura. She had married Vikram Shesha, a priest from Hulimavu, three years ago, and the couple had an infant child.

According to police, Vandana reportedly died by hanging at her residence on April 30 between 10 am and 12 pm, when family members had gone out for a function. She had allegedly been facing repeated harassment from her husband and in-laws over dowry for several months. Although both families had earlier attempted a compromise, the harassment reportedly continued, leaving her distressed. Police officials also stated that she was suffering from depression.

Following the incident, her brother filed a complaint accusing her husband and in-laws of abetment to suicide and dowry harassment. Hulimavu Police have registered a case and initiated an investigation. **–BMB**

Brake failure sends BMTC bus into wall

A bus operated by Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) crashed into a compound wall near Field Marshal Manekshaw Parade Ground at Anil Kumble Circle on Saturday around 12.30 pm, reportedly due to brake failure.

According to Cubbon Park traffic police officials, the bus, running on Route 362 from Shivajinagar to Begur, lost control before veering off the road and hitting the wall. There were 53 passengers on board. Fortunately, no major injuries were reported among passengers, the driver, or pedestrians nearby, though three passengers sustained minor injuries such as skin scratches.

Preliminary information suggests that the driver noticed a technical issue with the braking system moments before the incident but could not bring the vehicle to a halt in time. The impact caused minor damage to both the bus and the compound wall.

Police officials have written to the RTO to determine whether a technical fault led to the incident. A detailed inspection of the vehicle will be conducted, and Cubbon Park traffic police have registered a case of rash and negligent driving. **–BMB**

Namma Metro rides high on corporate funding wave

Around ₹1,500 crore has already been raised from corporates, marking a significant shift toward a partnership-driven funding model for Bengaluru metro expansion

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BMRCL is witnessing strong inflow of corporate funding worth thousands of crores through CSR and partnership models, easing financial burden. Companies are contributing to station construction, naming rights, and pedestrian connectivity like skywalks and walkways. For Blue Line alone, agreements worth over ₹1,000 crore have been tied up. These partnerships offer branding and connectivity benefits to corporates, while BMRCL gains additional revenue streams and reduced capital expenditure, and now focuses on long-term agreements for sustained income.

Sources said that under the current model, companies pay ₹65 crore for 30-year station naming rights, ₹25 crore for limited advertising and commercial space within stations, and ₹10 crore for building walkways or skywalks connecting to campuses. A senior BMRCL official said this approach supports metro finances while offering tangible benefits to corporates.

Funding spreads across Blue, Pink, Yellow, and upcoming lines

"For the Blue Line (Phase 2A) connecting Central Silk Board to KR Puram, the state government has allocated ₹4,202 crore, with BMRCL tasked to raise at least ₹450 crore from corporates. So far, Prestige Group has committed ₹90 crore for Bellandur station, Embassy Group ₹100 crore for Kadubeesanahalli station, and Bagmane Developers ₹40 crore for DRDO Sports Complex station. Additionally, Bangalore International Airport Limited is investing ₹800 crore in phases for a 4.95 km stretch and two stations under Phase 2B," said a BMRCL official.

On the other hand, the Pink Line has seen a ₹10 crore deal with Bosch for an underground pedestrian link at Lakkasandra station, benefiting around 12,000 employees. "Talks are underway with corporates for the Orange Line as well. Earlier, Infosys Foundation contributed ₹100 crore for Konappana Agrahara station on Yellow Line, while Biocon and Delta Electronics invested ₹65 crore each. In total, around ₹1,500 crore has flowed into Namma Metro from corporates," an official said.

> **So far, Prestige Group has committed ₹90 crore for Bellandur station, Embassy Group ₹100 crore for Kadubeesanahalli station, and Bagmane Developers ₹40 crore for DRDO Sports Complex station**
>
> –BMRCL official

Garbage fires erupt after ignored warnings in B'luru

Activists highlight lack of accountability as repeated dumping and disposal failures allegedly go unchecked, resulting in preventable garbage fires in neighbourhoods

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Similar incident had happened in Bengaluru at the month of January near New Airport Road

Two garbage fires that broke out within 24 hours earlier this week in Electronic City and Kadirenahalli have reignited concerns over unscientific dry waste dumping and alleged inaction by civic authorities, with the Bengaluru Navanirmana Party (BNP) claiming it had warned officials about the exact risk just a week earlier.

According to BNP, the issue was flagged during a recent meeting with Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) officials, identifying the area as a high-risk zone due to accumulated dry waste and a gas cylinder transport vehicle parked nearby.

"We had clearly warned the GBA official that dumping dry waste can create a fire during this peak summer. To add to this, there is a gas agency parking their truck with cylinders in the same place. We explained the danger of permitting the lorry there, which can lead to a very dangerous situation in case of fire," said Siddharth Shetty, Kadirenahalli Ward Leader, BNP.

Residents alleged that despite the warning, no preventive action was taken, even after assurances by officials. "The official promised that within a day or two the place would be cleaned and ensured it is not used as a dumping yard. Regarding the gas lorry, the official was informed by her staff that there is pressure from the Ex Corporator to not remove it," Shetty said.

The fires, which occurred amid peak summer temperatures, have again highlighted hazards posed by improperly stored dry waste in densely populated areas. Residents and activists have repeatedly raised concerns over roadside waste accumulation across Bengaluru, especially where contractors allegedly fail to transport waste promptly to designated disposal sites.

BNP further alleged that the waste contractor responsible has not faced action despite repeated lapses.

"There is absolutely no action taken against the contractor for dumping and not disposing of waste. Had this been done, the dumping would not have taken place and caused the fire," Shetty added. Calling for immediate reforms, BNP demanded stricter enforcement of waste collection contracts and zero tolerance for roadside dumping. "We from BNP are demanding that waste collected must be cleared on the same day and disposed of at designated sites. Please remember that in Bangaluru every zone is high risk. No waste should be allowed on roadsides. If contractors are not doing their jobs as per agreement, action should be taken immediately," he said.

> **"The official promised that within a day or two the place would be cleaned and ensured it is not used as a dumping yard. There is pressure from the Ex Corporator to not remove the lorry**
>
> – Siddharth Shetty, BNP

Experts said dry waste becomes highly flammable during summer, as heat and low moisture make materials like paper, plastic, cardboard, and cloth catch fire easily. Even a small spark can trigger a blaze, spreading rapidly through piled-up waste, releasing toxic smoke and worsening air pollution.

Recently in Frazer Town, miscreants set fire to garbage near an electricity pole, causing concern among residents with vehicles parked nearby. Residents alerted officials, and the fire was doused.

In another incident, a resident said garbage burned for about 12 hours with heavy smoke, causing breathing difficulty. The situation was brought under control after alerting the local panchayat.

"Garbage dumping has become rampant, and people are setting piled-up waste on fire instead of ensuring proper disposal. This poses serious health and safety risks. Authorities must enforce strict penalties, impose fines, and install CCTV cameras at black spots to curb such violations," said a resident of Frazer Town.

Fraudulent documents used to grab BDA property

A complaint has been filed against four individuals alleging a major land fraud involving forged documents to illegally claim ownership of property acquired by the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA).

According to the complaint lodged by BDA Deputy Superintendent of Police Hanumantharaya B, the accused, identified as Lakshminarayana, Maruthi Kumar, Anjunappa, Somashekar, and Mohan, targeted land measuring 2 acres and 35 guntes in Survey No. 176/1 at Kothanur, notified under the 8th phase of Gnanabharathi Nagar layout.

The original owner, ERR Falcon, had passed away, and the property was transferred to his wife Maryamma, who had already received compensation from BDA.

Police said Lakshminarayana and Maruthi Kumar allegedly fabricated a fake will and death certificate in 2008 to claim rights over the land. Using these documents, they approached the court of Deputy Divisional Officer LC Nagaraju and reportedly secured favourable orders.

Investigators found that the accused used forged records to file a case and entered their names in land records without legal entitlement. A case has been registered at Seshadripuram Police Station, and further investigation is underway. **— BMB**

Road rage at E-City: Couple chased, assaulted

A case of road rage was reported near Electronics City, where a couple was allegedly assaulted by a group of bikers after cautioning them against rash riding. The incident occurred at Bettadasanapura on Friday.

According to police, the victims, Soumyadeep Sen and Vyundreela Pradhan from West Bengal, were travelling in their Tata Altroz when they noticed a group of youths performing stunts. Police said the accused chased the couple for about 50 meters, intercepted the car, smashed its windows, and assaulted them in broad daylight around 5.15 pm. The incident was captured on a dashboard camera, and the footage later went viral on social media.

Vyundreela said the group called more people, and nearly 10 to 15 individuals gathered and attacked them. She alleged her husband was beaten, and she was also assaulted while intervening. The injured couple was admitted to a private hospital. Based on the complaint, police have registered a case and launched a manhunt. **— BMB**

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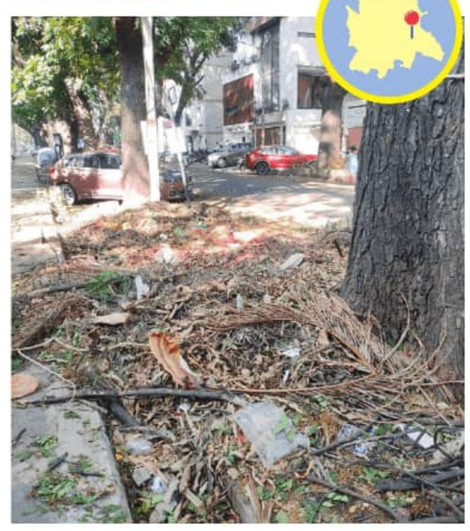
Burning waste
LBS Nagar

Residents allege a school near LBS Nagar, HAL, continues dumping debris outside its premises despite repeated complaints. Others now add garbage, and authorities reportedly burn waste, including plastic, raising health concerns.

Trash trouble
VV Puram



Garbage piles at five spots along the street remain uncleared despite repeated requests. Dry leaves have accumulated for months, and residents have begun dumping kitchen waste, worsening sanitation.

Traffic snag
Yelahanka

A manhole near Yelahanka has become a bottleneck, slowing traffic, causing inconvenience, and posing a potential safety hazard for daily commuters.

THE SUNDAY READ

In the grip of a vice

Experts explain how porn addiction takes over and ruins lives, making real intimacy almost impossible to attain

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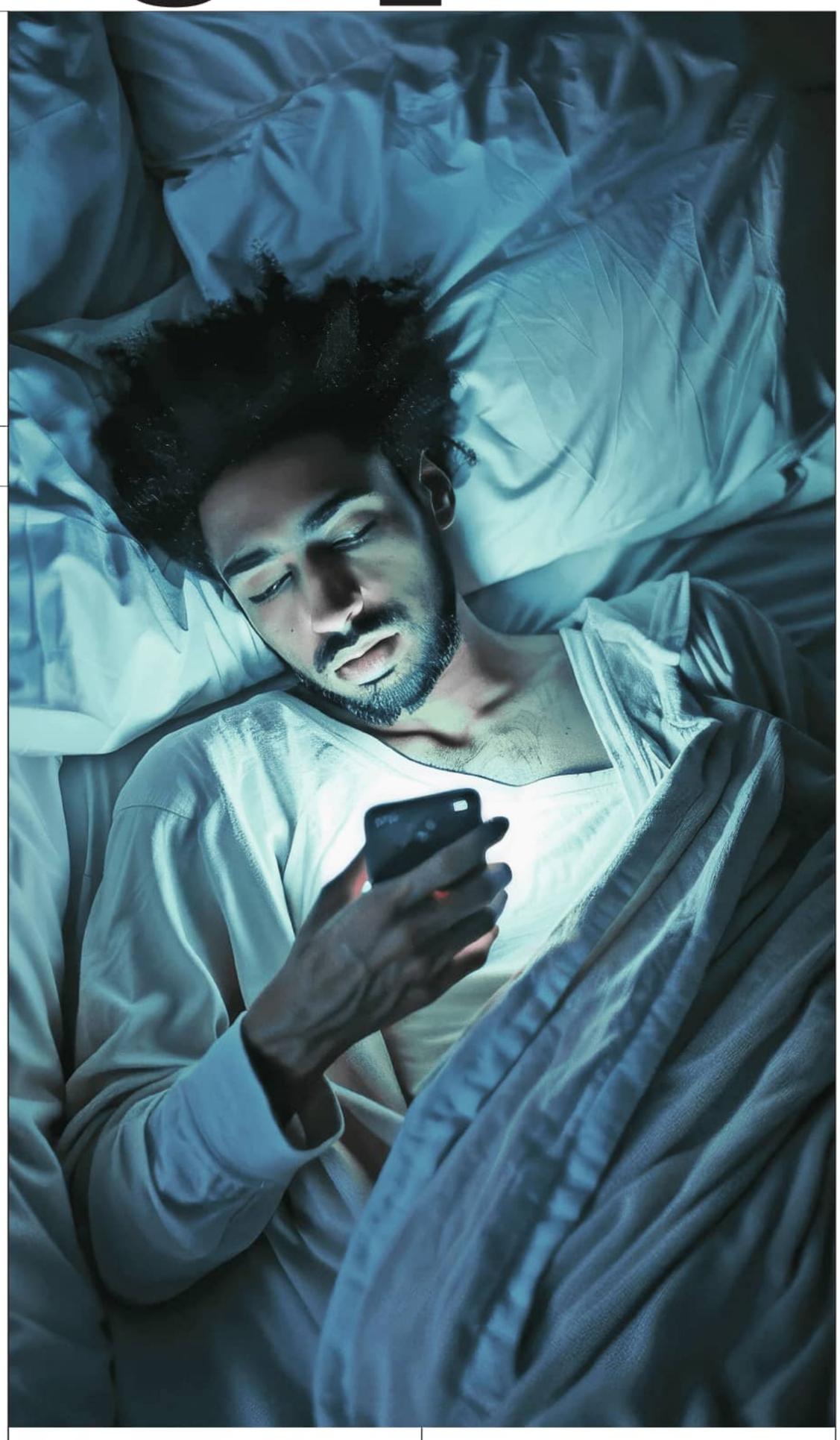

When Puneeth was in his twenties, he got into pornography out of curiosity. Over the years, this harmless curiosity slowly became an addiction. Now, a father of two, he was helpless as his addiction took over his personal life.

Once a social individual, he had started avoiding public interaction, along with a barely surviving marriage, as the problems kept stacking up. "Porn came into my life out of curiosity in my mid-twenties. In a short time, I was addicted and craved it to the point that my life has been affected drastically. I only wanted that, that was the only thing that satisfied me and we fed each other likewise. There was a point, when I was always irritated with my wife, and detached from her on countless occasions," he said.

Now 37 and working in a private company, he has been able to get help and is over his porn addiction.

But, all are not as lucky. According to experts, the effects of viewing pornographic content in the addictive spectrum is a mental glitch and if it goes unchecked, the addicted individuals can become criminally aggressive or violent.

With the internet available freely, people are actively engaging with pornographic content, and trends suggest that one can avail of personalised paid content on social media, as a thin line surfaces around porn and artistic boudoir, with no barriers for its accessibility.

This exposure has made the abuse of pornography more common, affecting the lives of many.

According to Anchal Kaushal, a somatic sexologist and holistic pelvic care therapist, porn consumption can slowly shift where arousal comes from. Instead of arising from sensation, touch or connection, it begins getting driven by the mind by visuals, fantasy and intensity. "The nervous system gets used to quick spikes of stimulation due to which the body can begin to lose its sensitivity to slower, subtler forms of pleasure," she said.

In her practice, she notes that this often shows up in the body in specific ways such as less sensation in the genitals, dependence on specific types of stimulation and a faster build up but less satisfying release. Within this, she has observed that people begin to leave their bodies even during sexual intercourse, staying in their head and following a script or fantasy rather than what is actually happening in the moment.

According to her, this shift indicates that porn is no longer a choice but a way for the body to cope, not for pleasure, but for relief. It is often used to avoid feelings of loneliness, rejection, boredom and stress, with a compulsive quality attached to it. Even when one tries to stop, the body keeps pulling them back, often leaving them feeling heavy and ashamed.

"This is the point where it is no longer mindful intercourse but a nervous system trying to regulate through intensity or escape. Under such circumstances, one should not approach it with shame or abrupt stopping, but instead slow down and ask, 'What am I actually needing right now?'. From there, the work becomes gently building other ways for the body to feel safe, held and regulated," she said.

Porn is fast, intense and peak focused, shaping how individuals experience intimacy. Real intimacy, on the other hand, is slower and requires safety, presence and the ability to stay connected, with oneself and with another. The expert said that many people struggle to stay present because their body has learned speed and not depth. "It is hard to stay present with a partner as their bodies do not respond the same way without fantasy. There is anxiety or pressure to perform," she said.

Over time, desire itself can reroute and become something one performs rather than something one feels. In such dynamics, consent is often assumed rather than communicated, and connection takes a back seat to stimulation. In the body, this shows up as difficulty noticing subtle 'no', confusion about what is actually wanted and disconnection from authentic desire. In cultures where sexuality is not openly discussed, it is often layered with shame, creating a cycle of arousal, release, shame, suppression and craving again. This can manifest as tightness, collapse, numbness and avoidance of presence.

In such cases, consent is assumed and not communicated, causing difficulty in noticing a subtle 'no', confusion about what is wanted and disconnection from real desire

"As somatic sexologists, we slow everything down; we bring awareness into sensation without any goal. Arousal is something you feel and not something you think. We work gently with shame, not by forcing it away, but by allowing the body to be seen without judgement."

Healing in such cases is not just about stopping the habit but about the body becoming available again. "From intensity it moves to depth, then performance to presence, then escape to connection." Over time, arousal becomes slower and fuller, sensation returns, presence deepens and pleasure begins to feel nourishing rather than draining. "When the body can stay with that, the compulsion starts to soften," she adds.

Intimacy and sexuality have long been a taboo, often associated with shame, said an expert. "This is another reason why many turn to porn as a supplement. This lack of open conversation and understanding creates confusion, where individuals struggle to differentiate between performance and real connection," Kaushal said.

"When curiosity is met with shame, it goes underground. When it is met with openness, it becomes something they can actually understand and integrate," she said.

"Porn consumption can slowly shift where arousal comes from. Instead of arising from sensation, touch or connection, it begins getting driven by the mind by visuals, fantasy and intensity. The nervous system gets used to quick spikes of stimulation due to which the body can begin to lose its sensitivity to slower, subtler forms of pleasure

–Anchal Kaushal, sexologist

Care systems for adolescents must be strengthened

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tied to teenage pregnancies. Dr Nirmala Chandrashekar, Consultant in Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Fortis Hospital, said the issue goes beyond healthcare. "Teenage pregnancy is not only a medical issue but also a social and educational concern. Globally, around 13% of girls give birth before the age of 18, and pregnancy-related complications are one of the leading causes of death among girls aged 15–19," she said.

She highlighted the risks faced by both mothers and newborns, noting that adolescent mothers are more prone to anaemia, high blood pressure, infections, and complications such as eclampsia. "Babies born to them often have low birth weight, premature birth, or even higher chances of neonatal death," she added.

According to Dr Chandrashekar, prevention must begin with awareness and access. She stressed the importance of comprehensive sex education in schools so adolescents understand their bodies, consent, and safe practices.

"Access to contraception and reproductive health services should be easy and stigma-free. Lack of education and poor access to contraception are key reasons for teenage pregnancies," she said.

She also pointed to broader social factors, including early marriage and school dropout rates. "Delaying early marriage and keeping girls in school can make a big difference. Higher education levels are strongly linked to lower teenage pregnancy rates," she explained.

Dr Jalajakshi B, Consultant in Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Fortis Hospital, emphasised the need for a compassionate and non-judgmental approach. "Teenage pregnancy should be approached with both medical care and compassion. In many cases, these pregnancies are unintended, and nearly half may end in unsafe conditions in low-resource settings, which increases health risks," she said.

From a clinical standpoint, she noted that adolescent bodies are often not fully prepared for childbirth. "This increases the risk of complications like preterm labour, low birth weight babies, and infections. In severe cases, it can also lead to maternal or infant mortality," she said.

Dr Jalajakshi stressed that awareness and early education are key to prevention. "Educating adolescents about reproductive health, contraception, and consent helps them make informed decisions and reduces unintended pregnancies. Open, age-appropriate conversations in schools and communities are essential to break myths and stigma," she said.

"Concerns about their daughters' safety, including risks of harassment, assault, or even death, often lead them to view early marriage as a form of protection. This raises a critical question: why are these safety concerns not being more effectively addressed?

At the same time, she underlined the importance of strengthening care systems. "Adolescents who are pregnant should be encouraged to seek care without fear or stigma. Many avoid hospitals due to shame, which delays treatment and increases complications," she said, calling for youth-friendly healthcare services where teenagers feel safe to speak openly.

She added that regular check-ups, proper nutrition, iron supplementation, and mental health counselling are essential during pregnancy, along with the involvement of families and community health workers to guide adolescents toward timely care.

"Post-delivery care is often neglected but very important. Teenage mothers need support for breastfeeding, recovery, and emotional well-being. They are also at higher risk of dropping out of school and facing social stigma, so continuation of education must be supported," she said.

She also highlighted the need for counselling on contraception after childbirth to prevent repeat pregnancies, which are common among adolescents.

Community medicine expert Dr Sylvia Karpagam pointed to deeper structural and social factors driving the issue. "Treating a social issue purely through legalisation can sometimes backfire, pushing the practice into secrecy and encouraging unsafe, unregulated behaviour. The state's foremost duty should be to strengthen access to education, which has consistently been shown to reduce the incidence of child marriage," she said.

She emphasised that families — particularly from marginalised communities — often act out of fear. "Concerns about their daughters' safety, including risks of harassment, assault, or even death, often lead them to view early marriage as a form of protection. This raises a critical question: why are these safety concerns not being more effectively addressed?" she asked. Karapagam also pointed to anxieties around daughters choosing partners outside caste or religious boundaries, and the persistence of social prejudices. "Tackling these entrenched attitudes requires sustained, proactive engagement rather than just legal intervention," she said.

Highlighting another concern, she noted the growing preference for marriages conducted through religious customs rather than legal registration. "This can leave young women without legal safeguards if problems arise later, further deepening their vulnerability and limiting their access to justice," she said.

"In this context, poorly designed or implemented laws can do more harm than good. Relying solely on punitive measures—especially when they disproportionately impact marginalised communities—may not solve the problem. A more thoughtful approach that prioritises education, safety, and social reform is urgently needed," she added.

No accountability in handling public funds

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

been recorded. In several cases, duplicate bill payments were made for the same work, leading to significant financial losses.

In addition, the report raises concerns over lack of accountability in handling public funds. It notes that over ₹3,171.95 crore is shown as balance across more than 300 bank accounts as of March 31, 2024. However, details of these accounts and certified confirmations from banks were not furnished for audit verification, raising red flags about transparency.

Pending dues

The report also points to long-pending audit objections and recoveries. As of now, ₹14,653.62 crore remains under objection, while ₹4,245.02 crore is yet to be recovered, with pendency stretching back to as early as 1964-65. Auditors have warned that delays in action could make recovery difficult, especially in cases where responsible officials have retired or passed away. They have recommended stricter and time-bound measures to address pending recoveries.

Department-wise, the finance wing accounts for the highest objection amount at ₹1,004.28 crore, followed by engineering works at ₹459.55 crore. Other departments such as town planning, revenue, health, horticulture and forest have also recorded irregularities, though on a smaller scale.

The audit further exposes serious deficiencies in financial management. A review of the balance sheet for 2023-24 shows current liabilities of ₹2,374.38 crore, including ₹747.50 crore shown as cess payable. However, this figure does not match earlier audit findings, which pegged pending cess dues at ₹2,444.86 crore, with no supporting documents provided to explain the discrepancy.

Auditors have also criticised poor accounting practices, including failure to reconcile bank accounts, improper maintenance of cash books, delays in submitting records, and lack of cooperation from officials during the audit process. Annual accounts were not prepared and submitted within stipulated timelines, and financial rules were not consistently followed in payments.

NIA court sentences 8th LeT Operative to 7 years

A special court of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in Bengaluru has convicted and sentenced another operative linked to the banned outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) in the 2023 prison radicalisation case. The court sentenced Vikram Kumar alias Chota Usman to seven years of rigorous imprisonment and imposed a fine of ₹30,000 under provisions of the IPC, Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, and Explosive Substances Act. With this, Vikram becomes the eighth accused to be convicted in the case. Last month, the court had sentenced seven other accused, including alleged mastermind T Naseer, who is accused of orchestrating the radicalisation network while lodged in Parappana Agrahara Central Prison.

According to the NIA, Vikram was radicalised and recruited by Naseer along with co-accused Junaid Ahmed during his time in prison. After his release, he allegedly remained in contact with them and played an active role in the conspiracy.

In May 2023, he reportedly collected a consignment of hand grenades and walkie-talkies from Ambala in Haryana through a "dead drop" method and later handed them over to a co-accused in Bengaluru.

Investigators said he was also involved in a plot to help Naseer escape while being transported from prison to court. **BMB**

Transport unions call strike over salary revision demands

The joint action committee of road transport corporation workers' unions in Karnataka on Saturday called for an indefinite statewide bus strike starting May 20, listing several demands.

The primary demand includes a 25 per cent salary hike for employees with effect from January 2024.

With workers from the four state-run transport corporations-Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC), Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC), North West Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (NWKRTC), and Kalyana Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (KKRTC)-expected to participate, the strike is likely to severely disrupt bus services across the state.

Several rounds of discussions, including meetings with Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, have failed to resolve the issues, said Jyothi Ananthasubba Rao, president of the KSRTC staff and workers federation.

Speaking to reporters, she said, "As there has been a delay of about 2.5 years, we cannot wait any longer, and hence the call for a strike."

She added that if the public is inconvenienced, the government would be responsible, not the transport unions or workers. **PTI**

Govt buildings face crackdown over ₹473 cr tax arrears

Revenue wing directs five corporations to identify, verify and recover pending property tax and service charges from government buildings, vacant lands, residential quarters and public sector units across jurisdictions

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The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Special Commissioner (Revenue) has issued a circular to all Commissioners of five City Corporations to take measures for recovering the property tax and service charges arrears from government buildings and properties situated in their jurisdiction.

The Special Commissioner (Revenue) stated that NR Ramesh, a former ruling party leader in the BBMP Council, wrote a letter highlighting that government buildings owe property tax and service charges amounting to Rs 473 crore and urged authorities to collect the pending dues.

"NR Ramesh stated in the letter that government authorities have cheated the GBA for not paying the property tax and service charges every year. He has also submitted a document pertaining to the arrears of property tax and service charges in all eight zones of the then BBMP. He has also demanded to issue demand notices to the government officials as

per the law to collect the arrears of property tax and service charges", the letter read.

The Special Commissioner (Revenue) directed the Commissioners of the five City Corporations to prepare a list of government buildings, vacant lands, government residential quarters, non-residential buildings, and public sector units (PSUs) within their jurisdictions.

"You have to verify whether those government buildings, vacant lands, government residential quarters and buildings for non-residential purposes, and public sector units (PSUs) are liable for property tax and service charges. Take measures to fix the property tax and services charges to such properties. You have to verify whether demand notices are issued to the government officials who are in-charge of those properties to pay the property tax and service charges. You have to take measures to fix the property tax and service charges if found any discrepancies in fixing the property tax and service charges", the letter read.

The circular also asked Commissioners to direct their subordinates to compile data on all government properties in their respective jurisdictions.

"The Commissioners and Special Commissioners (Revenue) of the respective City Corporations have to write letters to the officials who are in-charge of the government properties with a huge property tax and service charges arrears or meet them personally to collect the arrears", the letter read.

Meanwhile, NR Ramesh said he had lodged a complaint with the GBA Special Commissioner (Revenue) seeking action, including locking Vidhana Soudha, Vikas Soudha, Lok Bhavan and Kumara Krupa Guest House for a day over non-payment of dues.

Ramesh welcomed GBA directive to five corporations to recover long pending property tax, service charges dues.

Barrier-free toll plazas to ease travel, cut costs

Government pilots advanced tolling with FASTag and ANPR, aiming to reduce congestion, improve efficiency, and lower logistics costs nationwide

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With the implementation of satellite-based tolling through the Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) expected to take more time, the Union Government is moving to introduce barrier-free toll plazas on select stretches of National Highways. Union Minister Nitin Gadkari announced that a barrier-less toll collection system will be rolled out on selected highways from December, allowing vehicles to pay without stopping using technologies such as Automatic Number Plate Recognition and FASTag. He said the move aims to bring down logistics costs from the current 10 per cent to below 9 per cent. This interim measure is aimed at improving travel efficiency, cutting down wait times, and easing congestion at toll points, thereby enhancing the existing FASTag-based electronic toll collection system.

During a recent reply in the Lok Sabha, Gadkari said all lanes at toll plazas on national highways have operated as FASTag lanes since February 2021. As of 2024, more than 98 percent of toll collection takes place electronically through FASTag under the National Electronic Toll Collection programme. The system processes transactions through a secure and centralised network involving toll management software, acquirer banks, the National Payments Corporation of India, and FASTag-issuing banks. Users receive real-time alerts for each toll deduction, and authorities maintain records centrally.

Outcome of pilot projects will determine future expansion, shaping India's transition toward modern, satellite-based tolling infrastructure

Drivers will soon experience smoother journeys as barrier-free tolling pilots roll out. With FASTag dominance and strict refund safeguards, the initiative promises efficiency, accountability, and reduced travel disruptions across highways

"In case of an incorrect deduction, FASTag users can raise complaints with their issuer bank, the national highway helpline (1033), or via email at falsededuction@ihmcl.com. Each case is reviewed by the concerned bank and Indian Highways Management Company Limited (IHMCL). Where genuine discrepancies are found, users are refunded—often within 3 days—even though the official bank refund timeline allows up to 40 days", he said.

In 2024, authorities processed a total of 12.55 lakh chargebacks, accounting for just 0.03 per cent of over 410 crore FASTag transactions. The government also imposes a penalty of ₹1 lakh on toll agencies for every proven case of false deduction, reinforcing accountability in the system.

To build on FASTag adoption, the government has invited bids to implement barrier-free electronic tolling using advanced technologies at select locations. The identified pilot sites include Gharonda, Choryasi, Nemili, UER-II, and the Dwarka Expressway. Officials will assess the performance of these pilot projects before expanding the model to other highway stretches in a phased manner.

On the maintenance front, the government continues to award Short-Term Maintenance Contracts and Performance-Based Maintenance Contracts for highway stretches not covered under existing agreements. Authorities carry out temporary restorations swiftly during monsoon-related damage, while they sanction permanent repairs as Special Repair or Emergent Repair projects, typically with timelines ranging from six months to one year depending on the requirement.

44 peacocks killed in Tumakuru H5N1 outbreak

After 44 peacocks died of the H5N1 virus in Tumakuru district, Karnataka Minister Eshwar Khandre on Saturday directed officials to implement strict precautionary measures to prevent its spread across forest areas, including zoos and bird sanctuaries.

The directive follows laboratory reports from the ICAR National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases in Bhopal, which confirmed H5N1 avian influenza as the cause of the deaths. According to the state forest minister, the peacocks died between April 16 and 21 in and around Bommanahalli and Kolihalli villages in Urdigere hobli, and Bairasandra and Hullenahalli villages in Gulur hobli of Tumakuru district.

"In this context, instructions have been issued in line with the revised H5N1 Action Plan of the Central Government to prevent the spread of infection across all forest areas, including zoos, bird sanctuaries, Magadi Lake, and the community reserve at Kokkare Bellur," Khandre said in a note addressed to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) and Chief Wildlife Warden.

He also directed officials to immediately report any bird deaths, whether migratory or local, and collect samples from carcasses for testing. He added that authorities may appoint a nodal officer to monitor the situation across the state if required.

Authorities have established an infected zone within a 3 km radius and a surveillance zone extending from 3 to 10 km. According to the Health Department, teams will carry out surveillance for fever, Influenza-Like Illness (ILI), and Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI) over the next 10 days, covering a population of 20,432 across 38 villages.

The department has advised the public to minimise the risk of infection by avoiding contact with sick or dead birds and maintaining hand hygiene by washing hands frequently with soap and water. It has also suggested using personal protective equipment (PPE) while handling birds or their droppings, and ensuring poultry and eggs are thoroughly cooked (above 80 degrees Celsius) before consumption.

Officials said they are closely monitoring the situation and have put precautionary measures in place. Avian influenza (H5N1) infects birds and mammals, and rarely humans, says the WHO. **–PTI**

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORY BEHIND THE PHOTO

HAWK-EYE VIEW

Our reader shares a striking image of a Common Hawk-Cuckoo captured this morning at Doddakallasandra Lake. The sighting of this bird reflects the region's ecological health, rich biodiversity, and signals the approaching monsoon, highlighting nature's subtle seasonal transitions.

The picture was clicked by reader **Sridhar Comaravalli**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com**

GBA launches citywide safety drive after deadly wall collapse incident

Authorities begin demolishing unsafe structures and trees as extreme weather exposes infrastructure risks, with officials ordered to ensure urgent preventive action

The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has begun an urgent clean-up and safety drive following a tragic wall collapse and widespread damage caused by recent extreme weather, with authorities moving to identify and demolish dilapidated structures and hazardous trees across the city.

GBA Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao on Saturday directed officials to take immediate action against weak compound walls and unsafe buildings that pose a risk to public safety after heavy rains, strong winds and a severe hailstorm on April 29 exposed vulnerabilities in urban infrastructure. The action follows a devastating incident at Bowring Hospital, where a wall collapse claimed seven lives.

Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D K Shivakumar took serious note of the situation and instructed civic agencies to act without delay. The recent spell of rain damaged public and private property and disrupted daily life, with uprooted trees and fallen branches blocking roads across the city. Officials warned that the risk remains high, with more rain expected. All five city corporations have stepped up monitoring and formed special task teams on priority. These teams include personnel from Fire and Emergency Services, the police department and municipal staff to prevent further incidents and ensure public safety. Senior officials are overseeing operations.

On Binnymill Road under the Central City Corporation, officials demolished a weakened compound wall after a section gave way during the rains. They also brought down a larger stretch to prevent danger.

In the West City Corporation limits, officials identified an unsafe compound within the Mysore Lamps premises on 8th Main Road in Malleswaram and carried out demolition with safety measures in place.

Ramya Dinesh, a resident of Malleswaram said, "This kind of knee-jerk reaction after an incident does not really solve the problem. Every time something collapses or poses a threat, authorities rush in, demolish a section, and move on. But what about all the other weak structures that are waiting to fail? Residents like us are left anxious, especially during the rains, because we don't know which wall or building could be next. There needs to be a systematic, year-round inspection and maintenance plan, not just action after damage has already been done. If regular audits were carried out and repairs taken up in time, many of these risks could be avoided altogether. Safety cannot be treated as a one-time response. It has to be a continuous process, with accountability fixed at every stage. Otherwise, these demolitions will keep happening in a cycle, without addressing the root of the problem."

Binnymill Road's weakened compound wall, partly collapsed in rains, is demolished fully to prevent danger from its 25 foot stretch

Bangalore Mirror
Meeting victims of wall collapse was top on everyone's agenda, but what city needs is for authorities to get busy inspecting structures to identify vulnerabilities before monsoon; BM spots a few that need attention
THE CRACKS ARE STARTING TO SHOW

BM reported about dilapidated structures in the city on May 1

DID YOU KNOW?

The Grand Canyon is a marvel on the landscape of North America, a breathtaking geological feature in the southwestern US state of Arizona presenting dramatic contours and richly coloured vistas. Research now provides fresh insight into how and when the Colorado River came to flow through the region, carving the canyon over millions of years. By analysing zircon grains in sandstone and volcanic ash deposits, scientists traced the river's ancient pathways. The study, published in science, found that about 6.6 million years ago the river flowed into a large basin in northeastern Arizona, forming a vast lake later called Bidahochi Lake. Around 5.6 million years ago, the lake overflowed, sending water through what became the canyon. The river eventually connected downstream basins and reached the Gulf of California about 4.8 million years ago. "Scientists have long debated when the Grand Canyon was carved, and our study contributes to that conversation," said John He. "We have long known that the river existed in western Colorado 11 million years ago... but until now we knew almost nothing about where it was during the intervening time," said Ryan Crow.

— Reuters

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Viral posts on Donald Trump health concerns debunked

The Claim: A viral video claimed Donald Trump was rushed to hospital before the White House Correspondents' Dinner, suggesting a serious medical emergency and raising widespread concern about his health.
Fact: Official photos, press pool reports, and medical updates confirmed Donald Trump attended events normally, with no hospital visit reported, proving the viral claim was false and based on misinformation.

President Donald Trump hospitalisation and health concern rumours became a trending topic after a viral online video claimed the president was rushed to a hospital before the White House Correspondents' Dinner. Social media users quickly shared the claim and speculated about a medical emergency. No official report confirmed the claim. Photos showed the president traveling and attending events the same day. The rumour also followed another viral clip that showed him appearing to fall asleep during a press conference. This article explains how the rumour started, what official sources said, and how misinformation spread across social media platforms.

The rumour about Donald Trump being hospitalised began with an online video and spread quickly across social media platforms. Many users shared the claim without verification, increasing confusion. Official travel photos, White House press pool reports and medical updates showed no evidence of a hospital visit, highlighting how viral posts and misinterpreted information can trigger large-scale speculation before facts are confirmed.

The claim first appeared on a YouTube channel run by MediasTouch, which alleged that the president fell ill after arriving at the White House from Florida and was rushed to Walter Reed National Military Medical Centre. Soon after, users amplified the claim, with some suggesting a serious medical emergency. No verified media report supported it. Photos taken the same day showed the president boarding Air Force One at Palm Beach International Airport, walking and greeting staff. He later arrived at Joint Base Andrews. The White House press pool did not report any emergency, and reporters tracking presidential movements did not confirm any hospital visit, directly contradicting the viral claim.

The timing, just hours before the White House Correspondents' Dinner on April 25, intensified attention. Speculation grew as public focus on the event increased. Earlier in the week, a press conference clip circulated widely, with some viewers claiming the president appeared to fall asleep. Users linked the clip to the hospital rumour, but no official statement supported the connection.

In April 2025, White House physician Sean Barbabella said after a five-hour annual physical at Walter Reed that the president remained in excellent cognitive and physical health and was fully capable of performing his duties.

Confusion also arose from the term "press lid," which some users misread as a sign of a health issue. In reality, it refers to the end of scheduled public events. By late April 2026, no credible outlet confirmed any hospitalisation, and verified updates showed the president remained active. — ET Online

CSK bowlers shine as MI falter, despite Naman Dhir's fifty

Mumbai batters restrained, rest is easy for Chennai

1. Chennai Super Kings' captain Ruturaj Gaikwad, left, and Urvil Patel interact between the wickets; 2. Chennai Super Kings' Noor Ahmad celebrates the wicket of Mumbai Indians' Tilak Varma; 3. Mumbai Indians' Suryakumar Yadav, front, and Naman Dhir run between the wickets

A disciplined, all-round bowling effort from Chennai Super Kings (CSK) kept Mumbai Indians (MI) in check, restricting them to 159/7 in their Indian Premier League (IPL) clash in Chennai on Saturday night. This made the chase simple, and captain Ruturaj Gaikwad was able to wrap up the match with able help from Urvil Patel and Kartik Sharma.

Earlier, Mumbai Indians were well placed at 90/2 after the first 10 overs, but their innings lost momentum in the latter half as they managed just 69 runs in the next 10 overs while losing five wickets.

Skipper Hardik Pandya struggled throughout his stay at the crease, but it was Naman Dhir's 57 that stood out in the end for MI, which helped the visitors reach 159 in their 20 overs.

MI opted to bat first but had a shaky start against Chennai Super Kings at Chepauk. The openers struggled to get going as CSK's bowlers kept things tight in the powerplay.

Mukesh Choudhary and Anshul Kamboj were on the money in the first two overs, and the latter also accounted for Will Jacks. Jacks fell early for just 1 off 5 balls, putting MI under immediate pressure at the top.

Ryan Rickelton provided some early momentum with a counter-attacking 37 off 24 balls, hitting five sixes to push the scoring rate. MI counterattacked and ended up scoring 57 runs in the power play as they hit 7 sixes.

The pair stitched together a brisk 50+ stand for the second wicket and laid the platform nicely.

Naman Dhir got a reprieve on 19 in the 7th over off Noor Ahmad, but Rickelton fell to him in the same over, bringing Suryakumar Yadav on the crease. The middle order saw some resistance from Dhir, who played a crucial knock.

His approach helped stabilise the innings after early setbacks. Yadav was off to a good start but was once again sent back to the pavilion by Ramakrishna Ghosh for 21 in the 11th over, bringing Tilak Varma to the crease.

Varma stayed steady, playing a supporting role at the other end, while Dhir took MI's innings forward. Mumbai Indians stood at 106/3 in 12 overs, with Dhir anchoring the innings. While the run rate remained healthy at over 8 per over.

However, in the following over, Noor got the better of Varma, for 5, who was struggling to put bat on ball, and Hardik Pandya joined Dhir in the middle. As MI was looking to shift gears, Jamie Overton, after being smashed for a six, removed Dhir for a well-made 57, bringing Robin Minz to the crease.

Minz's stay at the crease was also very short as Anshul Kamboj cleaned him up in the following over for 5.

MI lost their track in the back end as they only managed to score 39 runs in the final five overs, finishing on 159/7.

Kamboj once again led the charge with the ball for CSK, claiming three wickets, while Ahmad picked up two, and Ramakrishna Ghosh and Jamie Overton chipped in with a wicket apiece. **–ANI**

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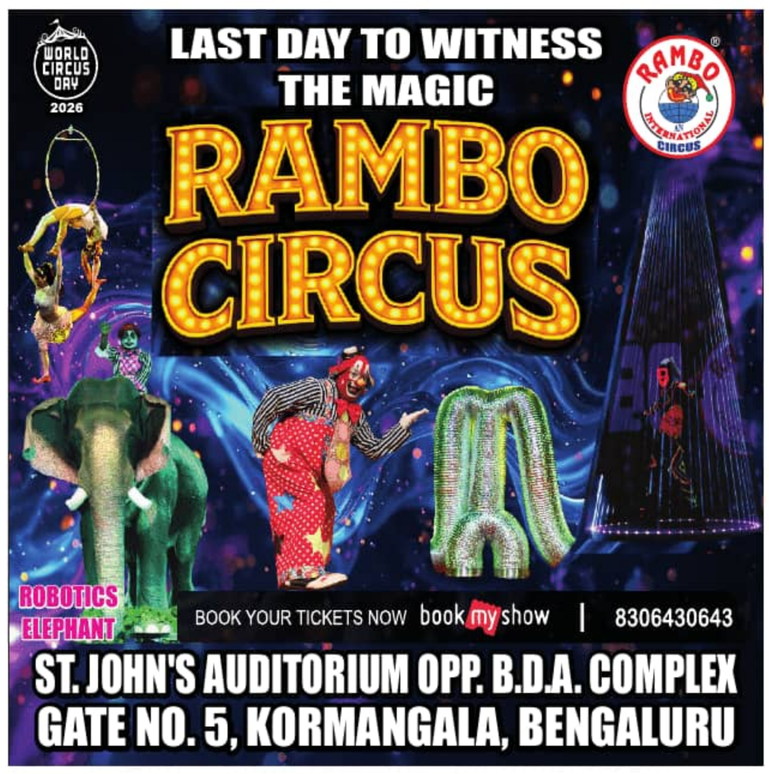
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Rules violation: 'Exploring options, will take action'

The BCCI will take "appropriate action" against teams found violating norms in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026, Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) secretary Devajit Saikia said on Saturday.

The Rajasthan Royals (RR) came under scrutiny twice during the ongoing season, first when team manager Ravinder Singh Bhinder was seen using a mobile phone near the dugout during a match against the Royal Challengers Bengaluru at the Barsapara Cricket Stadium on April 10, and later when captain Riyan Parag was spotted vaping in the dressing room.

Bhinder was fined Rs 1 lakh, while Parag was fined 25 per cent of his match fee and handed a demerit point after he was caught vaping inside the dressing room during his side's IPL match against Punjab Kings (PBKS).

"We are exploring some other options about how to bring the teams which are violating the norms," Saikia said on the sidelines of India's squad announcement for the Women's T20 World Cup 2026 in Mumbai.

"We will be taking some action. We are looking at the various terms and conditions and protocols of IPL [around] how the teams behave," he added. Bhinder had told the BCCI anti-corruption unit that the breach was inadvertent and had issued an apology before he was fined.

"It is not just players or officials. As a team, they have to maintain some decorum so that the image of the IPL is never adversely affected. To ensure that we have to take a call and we will be taking some action," Saikia concluded.

Rajasthan Royals head coach Kumar Sangakkara also addressed the recent controversies involving the franchise, stating that the issues have been dealt with and the team continues to emphasise responsibility, discipline and adherence to team values.

"I think it is, of course, a reflection that is not positive on the team, a controversy of any kind. All I can say is that both of those have been addressed by the BCCI and the franchise. And then in terms of the culture, we always try to have a very positive, healthy culture. We have our own values we adhere to. And the constant reminder to the players is to make sure they're responsible to the franchise and to our culture and our values," Sangakkara said. **–ANI**

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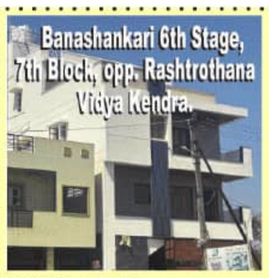

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Emergency alert siren flashes on Bengaluru mobiles during nationwide test

Residents across Bengaluru were taken by surprise on Saturday after a loud emergency alert notification appeared on their mobile phones as part of a nationwide preparedness drill conducted by the Centre. The alert, marked "extremely severe", was issued to test the Cell Broadcast System, which is designed to deliver real-time disaster warnings.

Officials clarified that the alert was only a test message and did not require any action from the public. The exercise was aimed at assessing the system's efficiency, coverage, and reliability across telecom networks.

The technology allows authorities to send location-based alerts instantly during emergencies such as natural disasters or other crises, without users needing to subscribe to any service.

The sudden alarm triggered brief concern among some residents before authorities clarified it was part of a mock drill conducted by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to test its disaster alert system. This is not the first such exercise, as a similar emergency alert simulation was carried out in Bengaluru in 2023. Officials stated that these drills are essential to enhance disaster preparedness and ensure timely communication with the public during emergencies.

The system, called 'Cell Broadcast Alert', is currently under pan-India testing, in the form of a flash SMS message from the NDMA.

"NDMA will test Cell Broadcast Alerts on 2 May 2026 in your area. On receiving the message on your mobile phone, no action is required. Please do not panic," the notification read.

When the emergency alert arrived on Saturday, it made the phone ring rather loudly with a sharp alarm tone and a flashing message.

The alerts were delivered by the indigenous Integrated Alert System (SACHET), which is developed by the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT). — BMB

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, VIKAS PAREEK RAJENDRA PAREEK, S/o Rajendra Pareek, R/o GF001, G Floor, RR Enclave, 1360, 6th Main Road, Halagevaderahalli, BEML Layout 5th Stage, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bangalore-560098, have changed my name to VIKAS PAREEK for all purposes vide affidavit dated 01/05/2026 sworn before Notary N.Sandhya, Bangalore.

I, KRISHNAPRASAD V, KRISHNAPRASAD, KRISHNA PRASAD, U KRISHNA PRASAD ACHARYA, KRISHNAPRASAD U Residing at Jathabettu Mutt, Post Uppoor, Udupi Tq and District -576105, Have changed my name to U KRISHNAPRASAD ACHARYA vide affidavit dated 02/05/2026 sworn before Notary Aravind Patil G.G Blore

I, YASHODAMMA KRISHNAPPA Residing at No 19, 4TH CROSS, 1ST MAIN, GOWRAVA NAGAR, JP NAGAR VII TH PHASE, BENGALURU-560078 have changed my name to YASHODA K vide affidavit dated:02/05/2026 Before Notary K.V.Mani Bangalore.

I, MEHENAZ AKHTAR, Residing at Flat #3303, Nandi Deepa Apt, Doddakammanahalli Main Road, Hulimavu, Bangalore -560076, have changed my name to MEHANAJ AKHTAR, vide affidavit dated 21/04/2026, sworn before notary Venkataraju H G, Bangalore.

I, KRISTOPHAR residing at No.311,13th Cross, Venkateswara Layout, Jai Bhimanagar, Bengaluru- 560068 have changed my name to KRISTOPHAR DASARI (KRISTOPHAR D) vide affidavit dated: 2/5/2026 Before Notary K.V.Mani Bangalore.

I, SADIQULLA KAREEM, Residing at No.270, 3rd Cross, Tippu Nagar, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru – 560018, have changed my name to SYED SADIQ ULLA, vide affidavit dated 18/11/2025, sworn before notary Venkataraju H G, Bangalore.

I, Sagai Raj S/o Pitchamuthu Soryanayagam Daniel R/o No 74, 2nd Cross Geetha Mandir Road Pemmegowda, Street Near Fun World J C Nagar, Bengaluru -560006 have changed my name to Sagai Raj Daniel for all purposes

I, Nithya Sagairaj W/o Sagai Raj Daniel No 74, 2nd Cross Geetha Mandir Road Pemmegowda, Street Near Fun World J C Nagar, Bengaluru-560006 have changed My name to Nithya Arcot Madangopal for all purposes

I, Savitha Porwal Sajjan Raj R/o No-3, SF1, Comfort Castle Apartments,Kanakapura Road, Basavanagudi, B'luru - 560004,have changed my name to Savitha Porwal for all purposes.

I, Geeta Kareppa Channur W/o Kareppa Channur @ Kariyappa Channur, R/o Friends Colony, Lingasagur, Raichur District-584122 have changed my name to Geeta Channur for all purposes

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Sri.G.V. Viswanath, IAS (Retd) Hon. President, BHS HES — Dr. T.A. Balakrishna Hon. Secretary, BHS HES

 # 'Please do not upload videos' Just a day after the historical drama Raja Shivaji opened to a strong response in theatres, actor-director Riteish Deshmukh has made a request to fans, asking them not to share spoilers online

Age of hypocrisy

Malaika questions double-standards when it comes to scrutiny women face over age

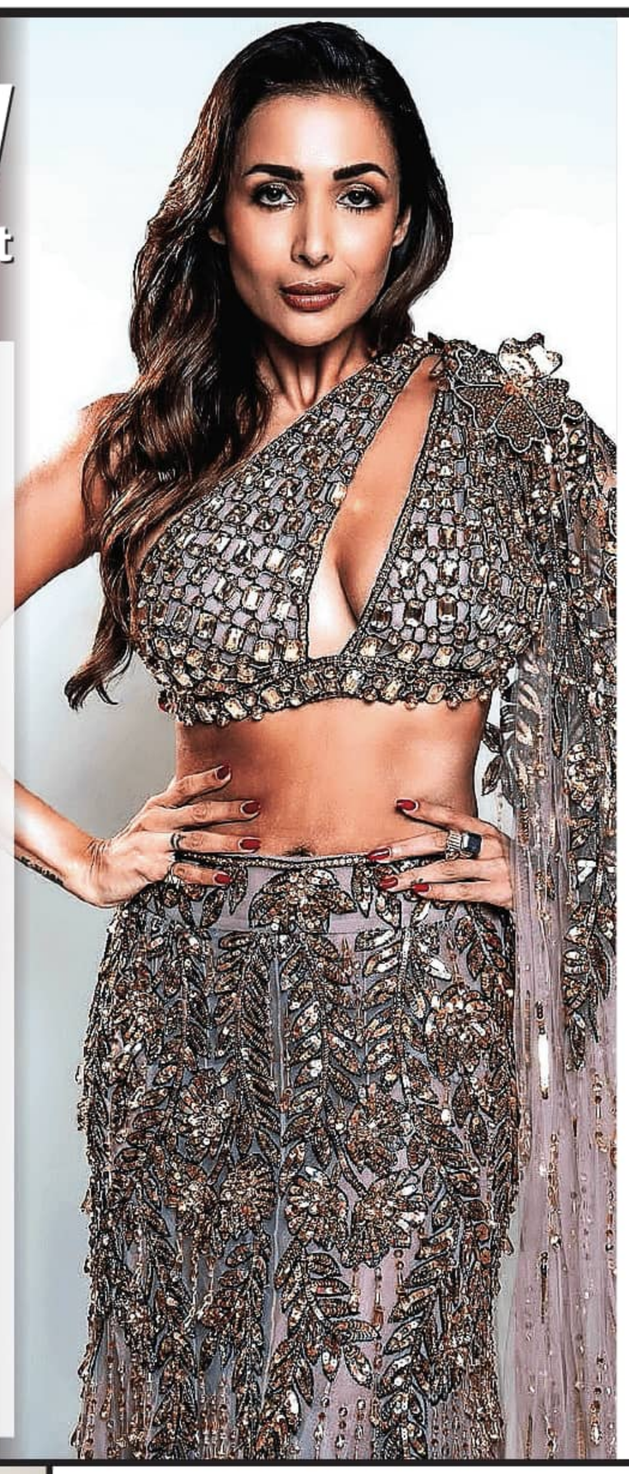
For over three decades, Malaika Arora has remained a definitive icon of grace, fitness, and style in the entertainment industry. In a powerful new interview, Arora called out the patriarchal mindset that subjects women to constant scrutiny over their age and desirability questions she notes are rarely, if ever, directed at men.

During an appearance on The Right Angle podcast, she highlighted the stark disparity in how society and the media treat aging men versus aging women. Arora noted that while men are allowed to grow older without explanation, women are forced to constantly "check-in" on their levels of attractiveness. "What I find interesting is that women are constantly asked these questions about age, beauty, and desirability, while men are rarely subjected to the same scrutiny. A woman is always expected to justify how she looks, 'Do you still feel beautiful? Do you still feel desirable? How does it feel to be this age?' These questions are almost never directed at men," Arora opined.

Addressing the evolution of her appearance, Malaika emphasised that her motivation comes from within, far beyond the "chiselled" image the world sees on screen or social media. "For me, it's never been just about physical appearance. Of course, that's what the world sees first, but there's so much more. It's about how you feel mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. It's about what drives you, what motivates you to get out of bed every morning and seize the day," Arora said.

Malaika also critiqued backhanded compliments. "'She looks amazing for her age,' 'She's so fit at this age', why is age always the headline? I was myself then, I am myself now, and I'll continue to be myself twenty years from now because I feel good, I feel strong, and I feel fulfilled," Arora stated.

— ETimes



All alert

Bollywood actor Vijay Varma shared a light and funny moment from his home. He posted a video where he is sitting and using his mobile phone very calmly. A dog is sitting next to him. In a cute moment, the dog suddenly taps his paw on the phone.

After the dog taps his paw, Vijay gets surprised and the phone falls from his hand. He added text on the video that said, "The alert hit us like!!" The moment felt simple and real, and many people found it funny.

Giving some context to his post, on Saturday, citizens across India received a sudden loud emergency alert on their phones. It was part of a government test. The message came from NDMA. It is called the Cell Broadcast Alert system. The alert made phones ring with a sharp sound and flashing warning. The message said, "NDMA will test Cell Broadcast Alerts on 2 May 2026 in your area. On receiving the message on your mobile phone, no action is required. Please do not panic." Many people got scared for a moment because of the loud sound.After the alert, Vijay Varma also reacted in his own way. He shared the clip with a light caption. He wrote, "It's all fine the world is not ending yet."

—ETimes

Heart-breaking image

Actor Bhumi Pednekar has expressed sorrow over the boat capsizing incident in Madhya Pradesh's Jabalpur. The tragic incident, which occurred during what was initially a routine cruise outing on April 30, has left families grieving and triggered an extensive search and rescue operation. Authorities confirmed that nine bodies have been recovered so far, while 28 people were rescued in the immediate aftermath. Several others were feared missing, prompting continued search efforts in the area.

Praying for the victims, Bhumi on Instagram wrote, "This is so tragic and heartbreaking. There has to be accountability taken. Praying for the families that have been affected. The visual of a mother holding her son will live with me forever."

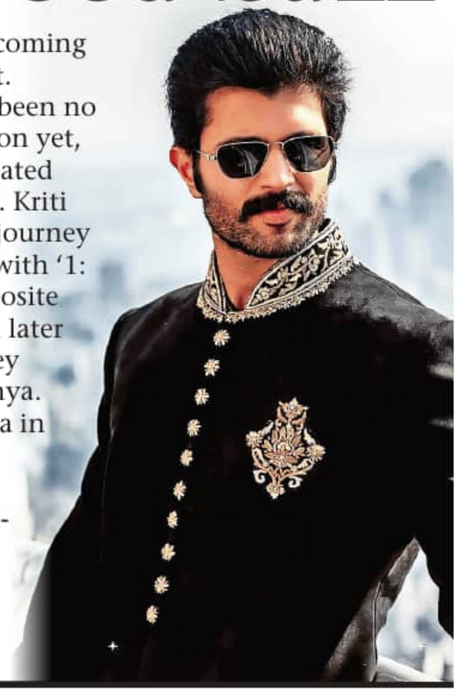
Multiple agencies, including the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), and Army personnel, remain engaged in combing the water body and surrounding areas. Divers are conducting underwater searches as part of efforts to locate any remaining missing persons.Officials said the incident is under investigation. **—ETimes**

Kriti creates Tollywood buzz

The South Indian film industry is buzzing with the potential of a massive new collaboration. Recent reports have indicated that Bollywood star Kriti Sanon is the top choice to play the female lead opposite Vijay Deverakonda in his upcoming pan-India project with director Shouryuv, of 'Hi Nanna' fame. Tentatively titled VDxShouryuv, the film was officially announced on April 18, 2026, with a striking poster carrying the tagline: "All this anger was once love."

According to Deccan Chronicle, Kriti Sanon is being considered to play the heroine in Vijay Deverakonda's upcoming pan-Indian project. Though there has been no official confirmation yet, the pairing has created excitement online. Kriti started her acting journey in Telugu cinema with '1: Nenokkadine' opposite Mahesh Babu, and later appeared in Dochey with Naga Chaitanya. She also played Sita in Adipurush with Prabhas. Kriti has maintained a highly selective approach toward Telugu cinema.

—ETimes



I feel so much more confident: Tom Holland on leaving alcohol

Hollywood star Tom Holland says leaving alcohol made him more confident as a person, noting how drinking was ultimately getting in the way of his professional life.

Holland decided to go sober in January 2022 following a "Dry January" challenge, which made him realise how alcohol was affecting him. He has even launched a non-alcoholic beer brand named BERO.

"I've been so lucky in the last four years that my career has really blossomed in a really lovely way, and I really love what's happening and what I have to come in the future," he said. "And I don't know how much of that would've come to fruition had I still been drinking," the "Uncharted" actor told USA Today in an interview.

"I think that alcohol, for me personally, compounded that issue. And, since getting rid of the booze and feeling more like myself and waking up clear-headed and fresh to start the day, I just feel so much more confident in myself as who I am as a person," he added. The actor noted alcohol can be "an incredibly dangerous thing". "And I just love seeing that young people are turning away from booze and looking for alternatives. And it creates, a safer environment, a more communal environment." **—PTI**

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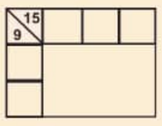
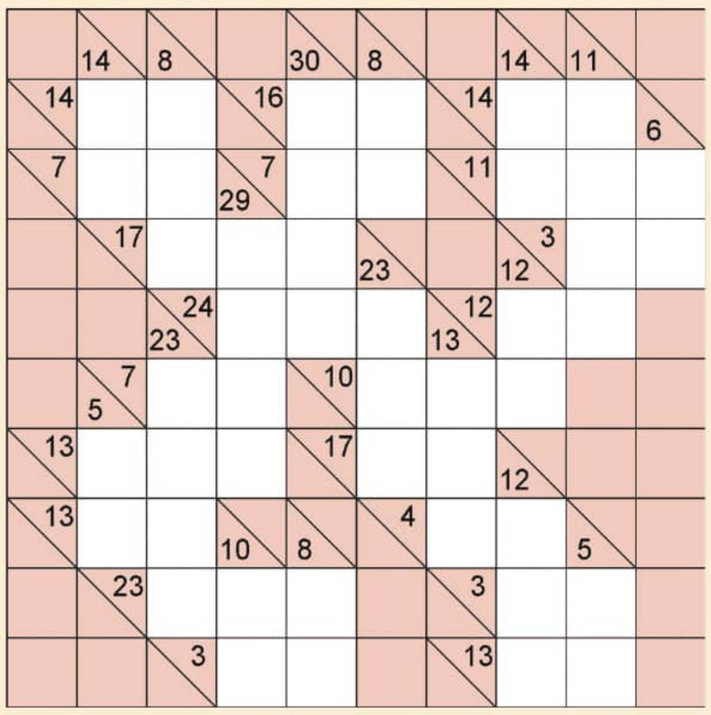
@BangaloreMirror

Kakuro

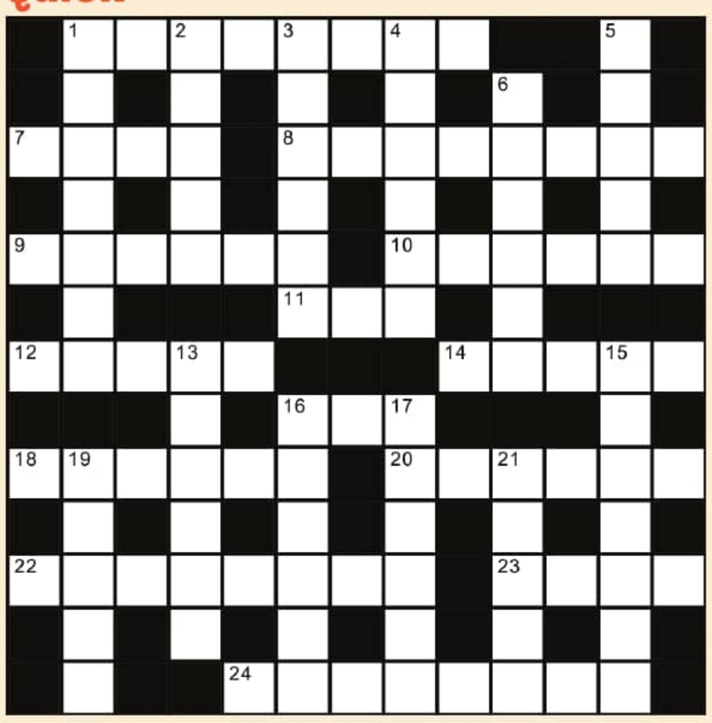
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Hams it up (8)
7 Not closed (4)
8 Ms Chopra of Bollywood (8)
9 Give; allot (6)
10 Start of a play (3,3)
11 Loud noise (3)
12 Did wrong (5)
14 Circular bands (5)
16 Woodchopper (3)
18 One of the best cricketers ever from Karnataka (6)
20 Salvo or barrage (6)
22 Depend or trust? (4,4)
23 Too (4)
24 Accompanied (8)

DOWN

1 He doesn't agree with what you propose! (7)
2 Utter boredom (5)
3 Add or attach to (6)
4 Chinese Taipei (6)
5 Spoken for (5)
6 A minister, for us Indians? (6)
13 Diplomats (6)
15 Lubricated (7)
16 Modifies to fit (6)
17 Nonetheless (4,2)
19 Instagram videos (5)
21 Minimal (5)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: Z EQUALS S

C ZXGGLZZSXF PCW TZ IWL OUI GCW FCV C STKP SIXWRCATIW OTAU AUL YKTGHZ IAULKZ UCEL AUKIOW CA UTP.

Linemaro

I am looking for someone to share in an adventure

Mindchow

Artists who seek perfection in everything are those who cannot attain it in anything

Joke of the day

What do you get if you cross Bambi with a ghost? Bamboo!

Loop

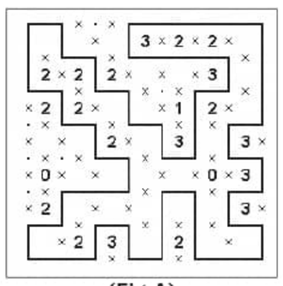
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

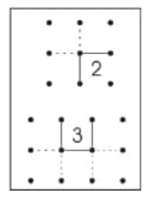
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

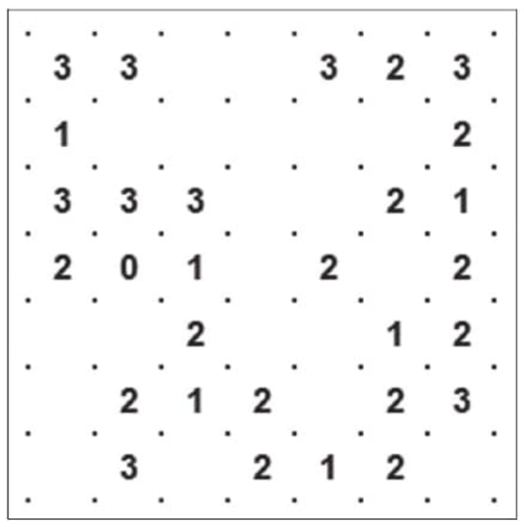
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



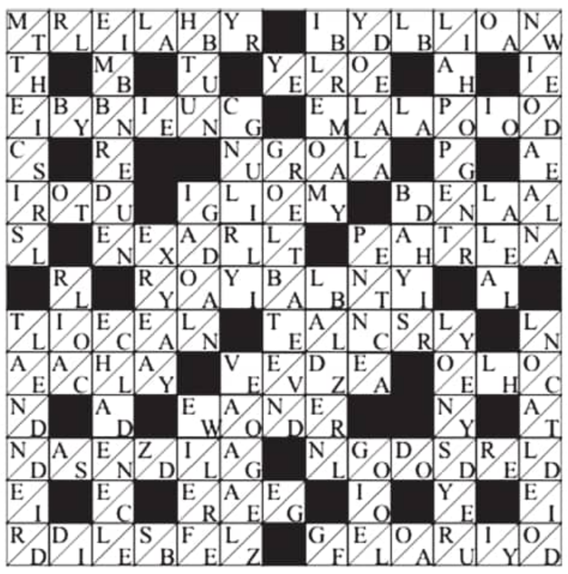
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



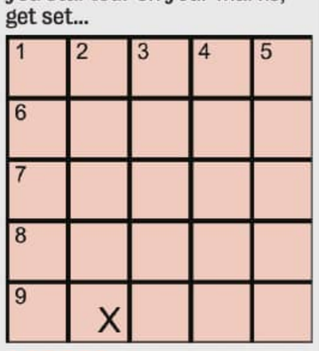
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Sugar; 6 Me tun;
7 Die as; 8 Navel;
9 No axe

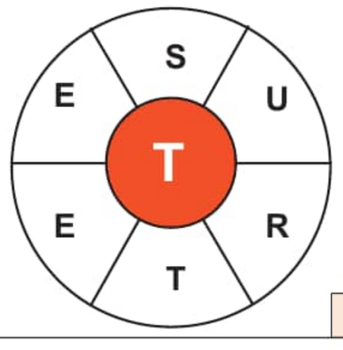
DOWN

1 A A Guv; 2 Nexus;
3 Naomi; 4 Arden;
5 Sleet

Mensapuzzle

Which number finishes the sequence?

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

13 Average; 15 Good; 17 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

		1				5		
	8	7		4		1	9	
	2		6		5		8	
		6	2		1	7		
		9	8		3	4		
	6		9		4		1	
	1	3		7		9	4	
		2				6		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 28

3 9 8 8

Medium = 14

7 8 8 2

Hard = 3

1 2 3 3

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

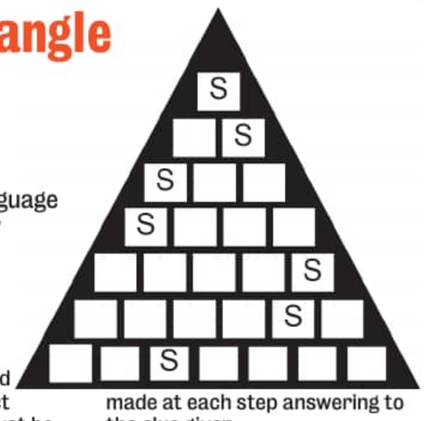
Differences: 1. Tie is missing. 2. Cup is taller. 3. Coffee sign is moved. 4. Sleeve is longer. 5. Cap is different. 6. Stool is moved.

Riddler

What connects these four things? Blind, Delivery, Dinner & Due

Alpha triangle

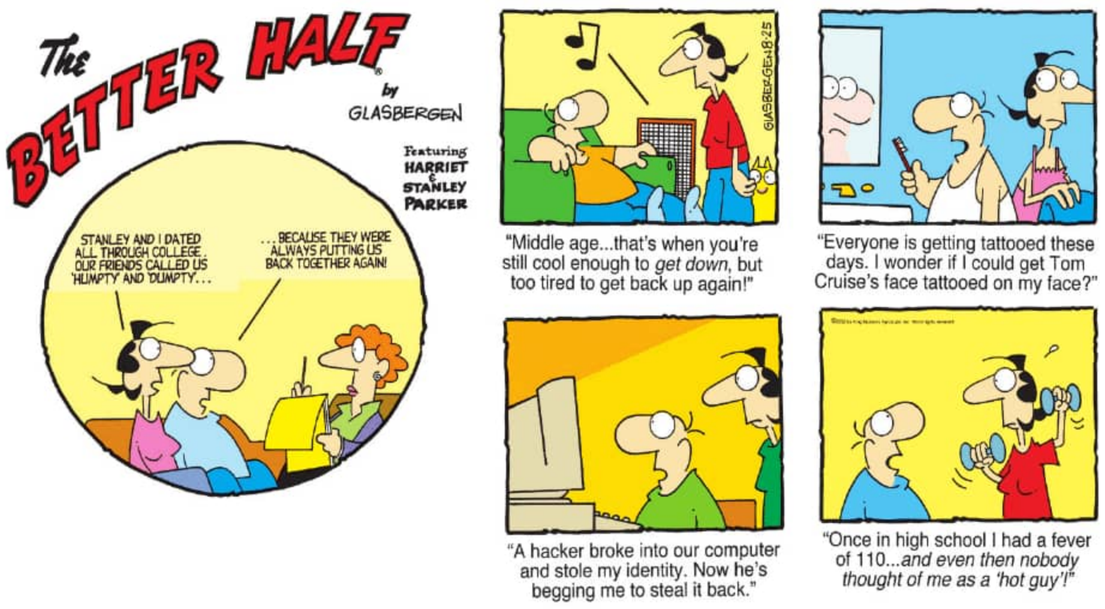
1 Sulphur symbol
2 _ easy _ a pie
3 Heartbroken
4 Pulverized rock
5 Crew members
6 Scandinavian language
7 Dapper, debonair

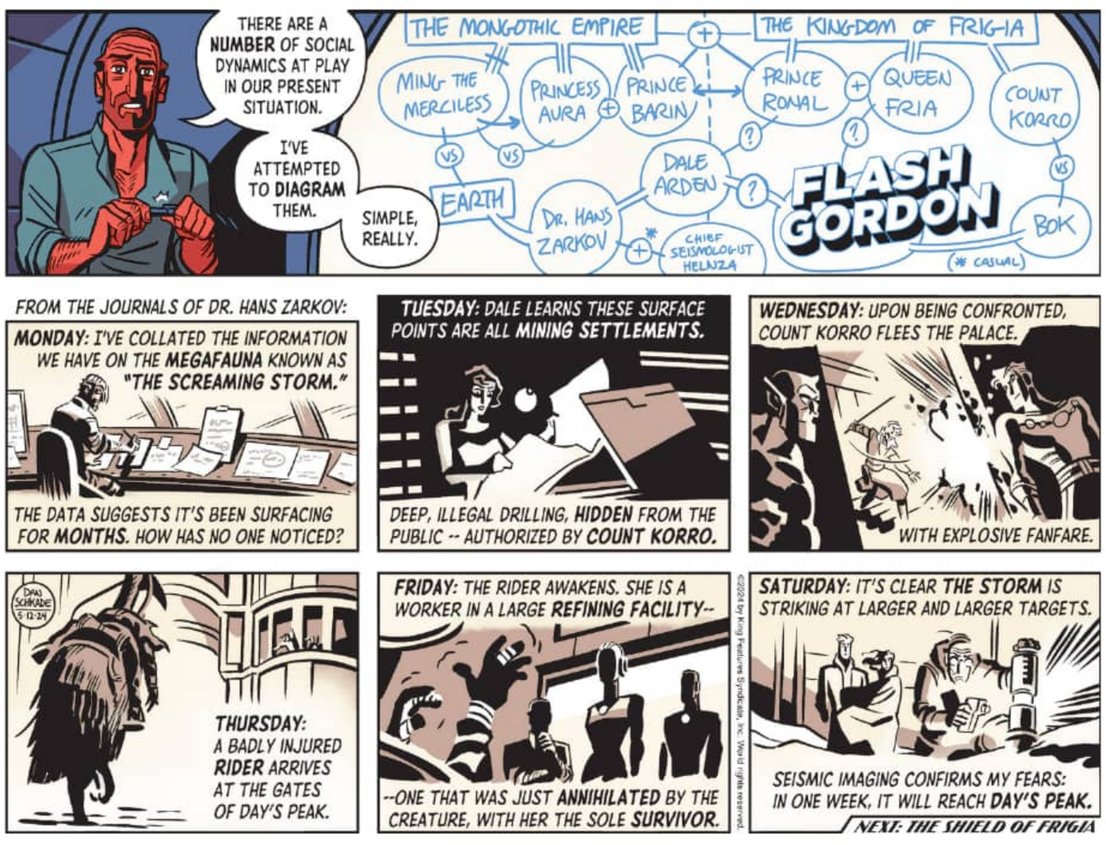


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS





WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR

If it's your birthday today

This year brings a surge in social connectivity and collaborative ventures. You will thrive in group settings and find that your network is the key to your success. A long-lost friendship could be rekindled, leading to an unexpected travel opportunity. Focus on clear communication to avoid minor misunderstandings. Your charm is at an all-time high, opening many new doors.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Recent changes around you may feel unusual or confusing now, but clarity will come soon. As the week unfolds, you will likely realize these shifts were leading toward something exciting.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
You will find it easy to convince others to agree with you today, especially in conversations. Whether your perspective is truly best remains uncertain, but for now, your confidence helps influence those around you.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
To gain support today, you must present clear facts and logical reasoning. Others will only cooperate if they see personal benefit too, so ensure your ideas are practical and mutually rewarding.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
You may have many excuses to delay a long-pending task, but today is the moment to act. This could be your final opportunity, so push past hesitation and begin immediately.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Avoid showing fear or uncertainty today, as others may take advantage of it. Even if you feel unsure, project confidence and strength, ensuring rivals see you as capable and unshakable.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
If a task feels overwhelming, don't hesitate to seek help. Let go of pride and accept support, understanding that collaboration strengthens outcomes and asking for assistance is not a weakness.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Your ambition is highlighted today, encouraging you to impress those in authority. Step forward confidently if given responsibility, as this is your moment to showcase your abilities and stand out professionally.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
If you suspect someone is withholding information, address it directly today. They may already want to open up, so initiating the conversation could make it easier for honesty to emerge.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Stand firm in your beliefs today, even if others expect compromise. Experience has shown that lowering your standards invites more demands, so maintain boundaries and protect what truly matters to you.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Collaboration is essential today, so align with someone who shares your goals. While success may be shared, it is far better than competing alone and risking losing everything altogether.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Make it clear today that you cannot be taken for granted. While you enjoy helping others, set firm boundaries if someone expects too much, ensuring your time and effort are respected.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
You'll feel motivated to pursue long-desired changes today. Once you begin, stay committed and see things through, as true confidence comes from persistence and dedication, not just initial enthusiasm.

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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
= (81^1/2)^1/2x(16^1/2)^1/2
= (3^1/4)^1/4 x (2^4)^1/4
= 3 x 2 = 6

RIDDLER
They are all dates

QUOTE UNCODE
A successful man is one who can lay a firm foundation with the bricks others have thrown at him.

FAST FIVE

A	X	O	N	E
V	E	N	A	L
A	S	I	D	E
U	N	M	E	T
G	U	A	R	S

STRIKE OUT

D	I	E	S	E	L	■	F	L	O	R	I	D		
E	■	C	■	R	A	G	■	I	■	E	■	E		
D	A	N	Z	I	G	■	N	O	D	D	E	D		
N	■	A	■	W	A	D	E	■	N	■	A	■		
A	C	H	Y	■	V	E	D	A	■	O	H	O		
L	O	C	A	L	■	T	A	N	S	Y	■	L		
R	■	R	O	Y	A	L	T	Y	■	A	■	■		
S	■	E	X	A	L	T	■	E	A	T	E	N		
I	O	U	■	G	L	O	M	■	B	E	L	L		
S	■	R	■	U	R	A	L	■	P	■	E	■		
E	B	B	I	N	G	■	E	L	A	P	I	D		
H	■	M	■	U	■	E	R	E	■	A	■	E		
T	R	I	L	B	Y	■	B	Y	B	L	O	W		

QUICK

■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
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■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

MENSA PUZZLE
168. Subtract 4 then multiply each number by 3 to give the next number.

BULL'S EYE
reset, rest, rust, setter, steer, street, strut, suet, terse, test, tester, tree, true, truest, trust, TRUSTEE, utter

SUDOKU

6	3	1	7	8	9	5	2	4
5	8	7	3	4	2	1	9	6
9	2	4	6	1	5	3	8	7
3	4	6	2	9	1	7	5	8
2	7	9	8	5	3	4	6	1
1	5	8	4	6	7	2	3	9
7	6	5	9	2	4	8	1	3
8	1	3	5	7	6	9	4	2
4	9	2	1	3	8	6	7	5

ALPHA TRIANGLE
S, As, Sad, Sand, Hands, Danish, Dashing.

GO FIGURE
Easy
3 + 8 + 9 + 8 = 28
Medium
7 × 2 + 8 − 8 = 14
Hard
2 + 3 + 1 − 3 = 3

LOOP

KAKURO

■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
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